

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 18, as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A storage area network (SAN), comprising:

one or more host servers, wherein one of the host servers comprises a backup server;

a plurality of storage devices;

a SAN fabric comprising one or more fabric devices configured to couple the one or more host servers to the plurality of storage devices;

wherein one or more of the host servers are configured to store primary data on one or more of the storage devices;

wherein, subsequent to the primary data being stored, one or more of the host servers are configured to initiate a backup operation of the primary data to store backup data of the stored primary data on one or more of the storage devices; and

wherein one or more of the storage devices comprise one or more archival storage devices, and wherein the backup server is configured to initiate a server-free backup through the SAN fabric of said backup data to one or more of the archival storage devices, wherein to perform said server-free backup, said backup data is copied to the one or more of the archival storage devices through the SAN fabric without said backup data passing through the backup server.

2. (Original) The SAN as recited in claim 1, further comprising a data mover, wherein the data mover is configured to copy the backup data to the one or more archival storage devices in response to a server-free copy command.

3. (Original) The SAN as recited in claim 1, wherein the backup server is configured to copy primary data from one of the one or more storage devices to another of the one or more storage devices to create a backup copy of the primary data.

4. (Original) The SAN as recited in claim 1, wherein the backup server is configured to initiate a third party copy (3PC) function to create a backup copy of the primary data.

5. (Original) The SAN as recited in claim 1, wherein the backup server is configured to update a backup database in response to the completion of the server-free backup to the archival storage devices.

6. (Original) The SAN as recited in claim 1, wherein the backup data is stored on disk drive type storage devices.

7. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising:

storing primary data to one or more storage devices in a storage area network (SAN);

subsequent to said storing primary data, copying the stored primary data from the one or more storage devices to one or more other storage devices in the SAN to create a backup copy of the stored primary data;

identifying backup data to be copied to an archive storage, wherein the backup data comprises the backup copy of the stored primary data;

freezing the backup data to prevent the backup data from being altered;

while the backup data is frozen, performing a server-free copy through the SAN of the backup data from the one or more storage devices storing the backup data to the archive storage; and

after completing the server-free copy, thawing the backup data so that the backup data may again be altered.

8. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein a backup server identifies the backup data to be copied to the archive storage, freezes the backup data to be copied, initiates the server-free copy of the data, and in response to the completion of the server-free copy, thaws the backup data.

9. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein a data mover copies the backup data to the archive storage devices in response to a server-free copy command.

10. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the backup server updating a backup database in response to the completion of the server-free backup to the archive storage devices.

11. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the backup server copies primary data from the one or more storage devices to the one or more other storage devices to create the backup copy of the primary data.

12. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the backup data is stored on disk drive type storage devices.

13. (Withdrawn) A computer-accessible medium, comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are configured to implement:

subsequent to a host server storing primary data to one or more storage devices in a storage area network (SAN), creating a backup copy of the stored primary data in the SAN;

the backup server identifying backup data to be copied to an archive storage, wherein the backup data comprises the backup copy of the stored primary data;

the backup server initiating the freezing of the backup data to prevent the backup data from being altered;

while the backup data is frozen, performing a server-free copy through the SAN of the backup data from the one or more storage devices storing the backup data to the archive storage; and

after completing the server-free copy, the backup server thawing the backup data so that the backup data may again be altered.

14. (Withdrawn) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further configured to implement the backup server copying the primary data from the one or more storage devices to one or more other storage devices to create the backup copy of the primary data.

15. (Withdrawn) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further configured to implement a data mover copying the backup data to the archive storage devices in response to a server-free copy command.

16. (Withdrawn) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further configured to implement the backup server

updating a backup database in response to the completion of the server-free backup to the archive storage devices.

17. (Withdrawn) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the backup data is stored on disk drive type storage devices.

18. (Currently amended) A storage area network (SAN), comprising:

a plurality of storage devices configured to store primary, and backup data, and comprising one or more archival storage devices configured to store archival data;

one or more host servers configured to store the primary data on the plurality of storage devices, wherein at least one of the host servers comprises a backup server configured to copy the stored primary data to the plurality of storage devices as the backup data subsequent to the one or more host servers storing the primary data, and wherein the backup server is configured to initiate a third party copy (3PC) to produce the archival data from the backup data;

a SAN fabric comprising one or more fabric devices configured to couple the one or more host servers to the plurality of storage devices; and

means for copying backup data through the SAN fabric to the one or more archival storage devices in response to the backup server initiating a third party copy, wherein to perform said copying, the backup data is copied to the one or more archival storage devices through the SAN fabric without the backup data passing through the backup server.

19. (Original) The SAN as recited in claim 18, wherein the backup data is stored on disk drive type storage devices.